Poplar defoliator Clostera cupreata Butler (Notodontidae: Lepidoptera) as medicinal insect in Chhattisgarh, India. Updated Version.

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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Entomophagy and Entomotherapy are well known in Asia since generations. Unfortunately not much work has been done to document valuable Traditional Medicinal Knowledge about Insects. Pankaj Oudhia is documenting this knowledge since year 1990. The present note "Poplar defoliator *Clostera cupreata* Butler (Notodontidae: Lepidoptera) as medicinal insect in Chhattisgarh, India." is updated version of his previously published online research document available through pankajoudhia.com.

Keywords: Entomophagy; Entomotherapy; Medicinal Insects; Ayurveda; Chhattisgarh;

Poplar (*Populus deltoides*) is a newly introduced tree species in Chhattisgarh. According to the reference literatures, Populus sp. are deciduous, dioecious trees commonly known as Poplar, Aspen and Cotton wood, chiefly in North temperate zone with some species in sub tropical region. About 10 species of Populus grow naturally in Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh it was introduced by the authorities in the year 1994. It was promoted as timber yielding tree. Its timber is used for Match-splints, artificial limbs, cricket-bats, packing cases, ply woods and pulp. The Poplar defoliator *Clostera cupreata* is well known pest of this species. When this insect infested on Poplar trees for the first time I collected the different stages of this insect and presented it to the traditional healers of Chhattisgarh specialized in use of insects as medicine. As Poplar was new plant for them, initially they hesitated to evaluate its medicinal potential but later when I planted some seedlings at the regions where they visit frequently in search of medicinal herbs they started taking interest in both the Poplar tree and Poplar defoliator. After continuous research, the traditional healers of Chhattisgarh found the male and female catkins of poplar useful in treatment of respiratory trouble. In reference literatures Poplar is not mentioned as medicinal tree. The traditional healers of present generation have discovered its new use. Many healers have found the dry leaf powder of Poplar very promising in treatment of Piles (Bavasir) but due to some toxic contents they use it in combination with other herbs. The Poplar defoliator has solved this problem. Now the traditional healers are using the full fed caterpillars of Poplar defoliator in form of dry powder in treatment of Bavasir. They are applying it externally in form of aqueous paste. Opposite to its leaves that are used in combination with other herbs, the healers are using the caterpillars alone. Many healers claimed that in combination with other medicinal herbs, the caterpillars can be used externally in treatment of skin related troubles. They are conducting trials for confirmation. These promising medicinal uses have added the name of Poplar defoliator in the list of medicinal insects. As poplar and poplar defoliator are common in many parts of the world, I am confident that the medicinal uses developed by the traditional healers of Chhattisgarh will be of great help for the researchers and farmers around the world.

[New comments added on April, 2014: *Through recent surveys in different parts of India I have documented information about over 400 Formulations for Piles in which Clostera is added as important ingredient. In Medicinal Mite Trombidium based Formulations popular among the Traditional Healers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha Clostera is added as secondary, tertiary and nonary ingredients. These Formulations are used internally. In Stereospermum based Formulations it is added as quinary ingredient. These Formulations are used both internally as well as externally. In Eclipta based Formulations it is added as septenary ingredient. In Schleichera based Formulations it is added as senary ingredient. In Famous 5 wild orchids based Formulations of Central India it is added as secret ingredient mostly in form of secondary ingredient. In Medicinal Rice Maharaji based Formulations it is added as octonary ingredient. In Acacia based Formulations used at early stage of disease Clostera is added as quaternary ingredient. In Bombax based Formulations of Maharashtra it is added as nonary ingredient. In Cannabis based Formulations it is added as octonary ingredient.*

Clostera collected from Poplar is also used for many other diseases. I found it as secret ingredient in Formulations of Haridwar. These Formulations are used by Yogis for treatment of Vitiligo. These Formulations are used both internally as well as externally but internal use is preferred. From the Healers and herb vendors of Punjab I got information about Phalaris based Formulations for blood related diseases in which Clostera is added as secret ingredient. In Careya based Formulations of Chhattisgarh it is added as secondary ingredient. These Formulations require judicious use as the ingredients are considered toxic in nature. These Formulations are used to treat the wound of poisonous arrows. For information on complete Formulations and dosage please visit pankajoudhia.com.]

Thank you very much for reading the article.

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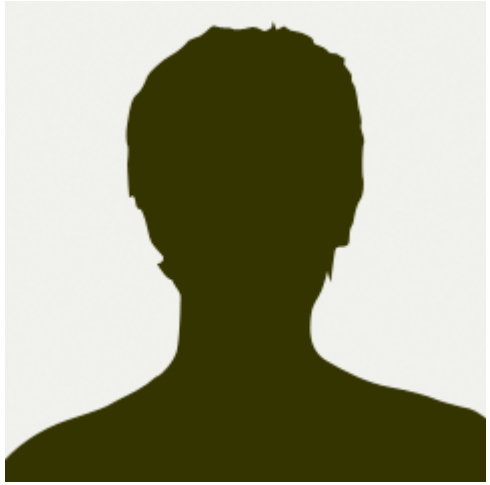

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